

Unit Safety Award of Distinction

*32nd Combat Communications Squadron
3rd Combat Communications Group
Tinker AFB, Okla.*

The 32nd Combat Communications Squadron (32 CCS) exemplifies the motto "Safety First." Personnel inventoried, palletized, and mobilized over 60 tons of tactical equipment, tents, and support items throughout this quarter with zero major safety mishaps. In addition to our normal operations, the squadron deployed for two evaluated exercises. The squadron loaded and packed over 40 M-35, M-900, and mobile communications vans. The 32 CCS then convoyed and deployed all the equipment to Douglas Field, Fort Sill Army Post, and another local training site, all under field conditions. Despite the sheer numbers of personnel and large amount of communications equipment operating under field conditions, the 32 CCS's safe deployments were not through luck. The squadron's "deployment machinery" took great pains in carefully planning the exercises and providing safety oversight to ensure the deployments were safe and successful. If managing to deploy all this equipment was not enough of a safety challenge, in an October exercise, severe thunderstorms unloaded 3 inches of rain turning the camp into a mud pit. After mission completion

and teardown, all personnel and equipment returned to Tinker AFB unscathed and individuals were prepared to unpack, inventory, and accomplish post-deployment inspections of the equipment in a safe and secure work atmosphere. December was another important month for the 32 CCS. Not only is it the beginning of the winter holiday season and the time for severe winter weather, but the 32 CCS was tasked to deploy once again to the field on an evaluated Air Expeditionary Force-certification exercise. The squadron's personnel met the challenge head-on and inventoried, palletized, and mobilized over 15 tons of communications gear, packed over 20 M-35s, M-900s, and mobile communications vans. The unit then convoyed and deployed all the equipment to a local field training location. Unit personnel set up and maintained the communications equipment 24 hours a day for 7 days while under intense Ability to Survive and Operate scenarios levied by the inspectors. This deployment not only showed that the unit is capable of deploying to meet its AEF mission, but it also showed the unit knows how to deploy to austere locations and still keep safety at the forefront of its operation. For a unit to move this much equipment and personnel in a 3-month period without a single safety mishap is truly amazing. Late in December, Oklahoma City experienced a particularly unusual snow and ice storm. Unit personnel were especially careful during this storm and experienced zero safety incidents, zero accidents, and zero "fender benders." As always, the 32 CCS's ground safety program was "Out in Front!"

ACC Safety is Proud of All Award Nominees

Capt Carl D. Ingeman
Pilot
522nd Fighter Squadron
27th Fighter Wing
Cannon AFB, N.M.

MSgt William G. Hahn
Maintenance System Evaluator
72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron
Whiteman AFB, Mo.

SSgt Steven J. Hale
Duty Sergeant
32nd Combat Communications Squadron
3rd Combat Communications Group
Tinker AFB, Okla.

SSgt Christopher M. Qualls
Combat Shield Team Member
Det 1, 53rd Electronic Warfare
Group
Nellis AFB, Nev.

SSgt Mark E. Dressler
366th Security Forces Squadron
366th Fighter Wing
Mt. Home AFB, Idaho

SSgt Mario N. Maiorana
Quality Assurance Inspector
23rd Fighter Group
Pope AFB, N.C.

TSgt Robert A. Schwartz
NCOIC, Technical Support
820th Red Horse Squadron
Nellis AFB, Nev.



Ground Safety Award of the Quarter

SrA Pierce's high energy and perseverance made her selection as the 4th Communications Squadron (4 CS) alternate safety representative a natural choice. She revved up the squadron safety program and breathed new life into squadron safety awareness. She created a team environment and spearheaded unit preparation for the 2002 Annual Wing Safety Assessment and Inspection. Her leadership and attention to detail significantly contributed to the 4 CS earning an "Excellent" rating. Her energy and enthusiasm ensured a full grade level of improvement over the 2001 "Satisfactory" rating. Safety inspectors recognized her in the final report: "SrA Pierce should be commended for [her] superb unit Ground Safety support." Her innovative and aggressive safety initiatives tremendously improved the overall unit Ground Safety program. SrA Pierce ensured all troops were knowledgeable in the Operational Risk Management (ORM) process. She designed and distributed fliers that were placed in strategic locations throughout each flight. She took advantage of roll calls, flight meetings, and squadron commander's calls to reach every squadron member with the safety message. She designed and passed out special wallet-sized cards with safety tips plus the ORM process. Each work center was given a safety campaign schedule board that

lists the unit safety representatives, the safety topic of the week and the month. Her efforts to ensure the safety of our airmen extended farther than her squadron. When she noticed an individual talking on a cell phone while pumping gas at the base shoppette, she intervened and brought the safety hazard to the attention of the shoppette manager. She provided the wing safety information for this hazard and requested that warning labels be added to the pumps. Her guidance was instrumental in the 4 CS experiencing no reportable mishaps during the past year. The outstanding work ethic of SrA Pierce contributed to the radar work center receiving an "Outstanding" rating and the Personnel Reliability Program receiving an "Excellent" score during the Annual Wing Safety Assessment. SrA Pierce keeps all Job Safety Training Outlines current and tailors them to the unique requirements of each flight. She is routinely praised by Wing Safety for her efforts to improve unit Ground Safety.



SrA LaQuita Pierce
4th Comm Squadron
4th Fighter Wing
Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.

Weapons Safety Award of the Quarter

A dynamic leader recognized throughout the 20th Fighter Wing as an unquestioned expert in the field, TSgt Kast meets all challenges head on. He consistently evaluated work during the 18-month inspections of the M61A1 gun. TSgt Kast provided valuable process improvement input, resulting in a 100 percent pass rate on all quality assurance inspections. His inputs led to improvement of the "critical area" checklist used during every gun system inspection. TSgt Kast works well under pressure. He responded to assist flightline personnel with a 20 mm gun jam during an upload. He quickly assessed the situation and ensured the gun was cleared, ensuring the safety of all involved. He demonstrated his technical prowess by pinpointing the improper installation of the hold back tool. TSgt Kast responded to five hung guns, ensuring all safety procedures were followed. He assisted in the development of a compre-

hensive and detailed M61A1 gun system malfunction work sheet, providing key outside agencies with updated data, allowing the 20th Fighter Wing Safety to up channel all reports. TSgt Kast is a positive spokesman of safety issues; he provided a briefing to leadership concerning a probable cause to recent hung guns. He spearheaded a maintenance safety investigation with Capt Shinn to find the root cause of the problem and proposed changes to quality assurance inspections of the gun system to ensure integrity of the system. The change was adopted along with recommendation of a one-time inspection, resulting in no noted problems since.



TSgt Earl A. Kast
20th Equipment Maintenance Squadron
20th Fighter Wing
Shaw AFB, S.C.

